

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03211 211327Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00
/040 W

-----211452Z 123383 /50 S

R 211221Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3189
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3211

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, US
SUBJECT: KHADDAM DISCUSSES ISRAELI ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 116618

1. FONMIN KHADDAM ASSERTED MAY 21 HE HAD PREDICTED
BEGIN'S VICTORY IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS GIVEN THE
EVOLUTION OF ISRAELI DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, THE DMC'S TAKING
SUPPORT FROM LABOR AND ABOVE ALL BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL
ISRAELI DESIRE NOT TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE.

2. KHADDAM SAID HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN
GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE VARIOUS ISRAELI POLITICAL
LEADERS TO EVADE PEACE BY THE TACTIC OF PUSHING FORWARD
THE MOST EXTREME VOICE IN ISRAEL. UNDER THIS INTERPRETA-
TION, RABIN'S FALL FROM POWER WAS A STEP CONTRIVED BY
THE LABOR PARTY TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE. I
ASKED IF HE FELT BEGIN COULD ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY.
KHADDAM REPLIED, BEGIN CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT PEACE.
BUT BEGIN'S ELECTION SUCCESS MAY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY
FURTHERED BY HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS AFTER THE LABOR PARTY
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FOUND ITSELF SUCCESSFUL IN CONVEYING THE IMPRESSION OF
WANTING PEACE BUT WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT CARRY THROUGH
ON THIS. WITH BEGIN AS THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER THERE WOULD
HAVE TO BE NEW TALKS, LEADING TO NEW INTRANSIGENT STANDS AND
CONCOMITANT NEW BLACKMAIL AGAINST THE USG. HOWEVER, KHADDAM SAID,
NO ISRAELI PARTY WANTS PEACE, "ONLY A FEW SMALL GROUPINGS"
HAVE EVER SINCERELY RAISED THE POSSIBLE RETREAT FROM

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. AFTER ALL, HE CONCLUDED CALMLY, "ALL ARE ISRAELIS AND ALL ARE AGGRESSORS."

3. FOREGOING REMARKS WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO TALKING POINTS FURNISHED STATE REFTEL. KHADDAM TOOK NO DIRECT ISSUE WITH OUR POINTS. HIS OWN REMARKS, HOWEVER, INDICATE HIS DEEP SKEPTICISM ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS. HE DID NOT, I AM GLAD TO RECORD, INDULGE IN ANY RHETORIC SUCH AS "ALL NOW DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH THE U.S. IS WILLING TO PRESSURE ISRAEL."
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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